

MEMO

To: Pedro Ramos, Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY)
From: Big Cypress Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Committee (ORVAC)
Re: Recommendation for Managing Guest Access to Private Property In-holdings
Date: October 26, 2010

At our August 17, 2010 meeting we took up the issue of guest access to private property in-holdings, as you requested. As a result of our discussions we developed the following recommendations for your consideration, with the understanding that your staff will be assessing the viability of these recommendations. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

These recommendations are intended to:

- Streamline the process by which owners of private property in-holdings can offer access to their property to invited guests, reducing hardship and lost time traveling to BICY offices during office hours.
- Continue to ensure efficient enforcement procedures for BICY staff.
- Make it easy for owners of private property in-holdings to check on each others' properties.
- Alleviate time spent by BICY employees issuing these permits.

Recommended policies and practices:

- If a guest is traveling in the company of the owner of a private property in-holding, he or she should not need to have a guest pass.
- Owners of private property in-holdings should be able to self-issue guest passes, similar to the way that some states allow landowners to print "permission to hunt forms". This could be through a down-loadable online form, or a form that can be filled out online, accessed through a login/password for landowners. An example of one type of online system is located at the following website and could be adapted to apply to BICY private property in-holdings:
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/9/pdf/DNR%208924.pdf>. This should be linked to the BICY data system, enabling BICY staff to track guest passes issued by landowners. Paper versions of the self-issue forms could be distributed and copied through the BICY office.
- Alternatively, guests could submit names or BICY ORV permit #'s of their guests electronically to BICY. Rangers could then carry updated lists with them, so guests would just need to produce an ID or a BICY ORV permit during routine stops by rangers. Successful implementation of this approach would depend on continual updating of the list.
- The owners of private property in-holdings should be able to visit any other private property in-holding without a guest pass.
- Secondary trails should extend to the property boundaries of private property in-holdings, rather than ending before the boundary, provided there is a suitable area for turning around before the property. Owners could opt out of this program, in

which case the secondary trail would end before their property line (distance to be determined by BICY staff), or at the nearest suitable turnaround area.